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LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1906.

WHOLE NO. 2118

## TORNADO SWEEPS MERIDIAN, MISS.

More Than One Hundred Killed and Injured in the Storm.

## FLAMES FOLLOW THE STORM

Electric Lighting Plant Destroyed and Darkness Prevails—Despite Heavy Rains Fire Spreads Rapidly—Miles of Telegraph Wires are Down.

Meridian, Miss., March 5.—Nineteen people are known to have been killed as a result of the tornado which swept over a section of this city shortly after 6 o'clock Tuesday evening. Twenty-four persons were injured and property with an estimated value of one million dollars demolished or otherwise damaged. Many sensational reports were sent out from here of an appalling loss of life, due possibly to the chaotic condition of affairs immediately following the visitation of the storm, but tonight after a careful canvass of the situation the following list of dead appears to be complete:

**Whites**—B. F. Elmore, restaurant proprietor; Patrick McGinnis, conducted on Mobile and Ohio, killed at Elmore's restaurant; Cliff Edwards, flagman, Mobile and Ohio, killed at Elmore's restaurant; J. B. Tarry, policeman, killed in Thornton's transfer stables; W. B. Nelson, killed in Thornton's stables; Mrs. Ella Singleton and little granddaughter, killed in east end; John T. Smith, engineer, killed at Elmore's restaurant; Mr. Stewart and little son, of Cottondale; Claud Williams, bookkeeper of Meyers-Neville Hardware Company, found in debris.

A mass meeting of citizens of Meridian was called today and \$8,000 was immediately subscribed to aid the destitute and injured. The Mississippi legislature, in session at Jackson, today appropriated \$5,000 to the relief fund.

Mobile, Ala., March 3.—Information has reached Mobile by telephone, all telegraph wires being down, that a destructive tornado visited Meridian, Miss. at 6:30 last evening, killing twenty-one white persons and over a hundred negroes and damaging property to the extent of \$500,000. There was also a score seriously injured by being caught in the wreckage of houses. The tornado caught the city on the southwest and traveled to the northwest expending itself in two suburbs where many negroes were killed and injured, a whole tenement district being wiped out.

Two large wholesale stores, several smaller ones, part of the principal hotel, the electric lighting plant and all the small property between the Mobile and Ohio Railroad and the business section of the city was badly damaged. Twenty men were caught in one restaurant and several were killed. Two stories of the Y. M. C. building were wrecked and other buildings suffered in the upper stories. The negro tenement district north of the city was demolished and that debris caught fire threatening a new danger, but the local department, with the help of hundreds of citizens overcame it after a hard fight. They were assisted by a torrential rain following the tornado.

The city is in darkness and the full extent of the disaster will not be known until daylight. The known path of the storm was about 600 feet wide and one mile

length.

Desperate calls were sent out to other cities for aid when the fire broke out threatening a fierce conflagration.

### CHARGED WITH LARCENY.

**Billy Barfield Arrested on Charge of Stealing Cotton—Case Dismissed.**

Billy Barfield was given a hearing before Justice Ira B. Townsend Friday on the charge of the larceny of a bale of cotton from Mr. Powell, who lives several miles from town, and after hearing the testimony and argument of counsel the case was dismissed. Evidence was introduced by the prosecution going to show that defendant had left home before day, brought a bale of cotton to Lumberton and offered it for sale. From the end of the bale of cotton the wrapping, on which it was alleged had been the name of Mr. Powell, was cut away and replaced by a new piece of cloth. The warrant was made returnable before Squire John H. McNeill, but was subsequently moved for a hearing before Mr. Townsend. Mr. E. M. Britt represented the prosecution, while Messrs. S. McIntyre, J. G. McCormick and W. H. Kinlaw appeared for the defendant.

### GADGETS.

Pages Mill, S. C., March 2.—Mrs. W. H. Powell and daughter, Madge and Miss Cora Grantham, were visitors at Mrs. Joe Pitman's Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mrs. W. C. Rogers has just moved in her new dwelling.

Mr. Maloy Butler had the misfortune to get his buggy shafts broken while crossing Ashpole Sunday the horse became frightened at a bicycle on the footway and fell down three times. The occupant jumped out in the water to save the horse from being drowned.

The Union baseball team played against Oak Grove Saturday. Union won by a score of 36 to 1.

Messrs. D. C. Arnette and J. G. Smith have added much to the appearance of their dwellings by recent improvements.

## ARGUMENT OF COUNSEL

### BEGUN IN HASTY CASE

All of the Evidence for Both Sides in --Miss Sheridan was Again on Stand.

Gaffney, S. C., March 5.—The trial of George Hasty for the murder of Actor Abbott Davison last December was at the Saturday morning session of court by the close of testimony for the defence. The state introduced several witnesses in rebuttal, particularly to disprove the allegations of self defence made by Hasty and his witnesses. Miss Sheridan, a member of the "Nothing But Money" company, of which Davison was also a member and to whom she was understood to have been engaged at the time of the killing, was brought again to the stand. She declared untrue the statement that Davison had a knife in his pocket when he was attacked by Hasty. Every effort of the defendant's attorneys to discredit testimony or to confuse her testimony proved fruitless.

Argument was begun by attorney this afternoon. Captain J. Bell spoke for the prosecution. M. K. Osborne for the defense. The case will be continued Monday when the leading attorneys on both sides will be heard.

No woman ever considers herself as long as there is another fatter.

Subscribe for the Robesonian.

## NEWS AND COMMENT FROM RED SPRINGS

Correspondence of the Robesonian.

Red Springs, March 5.—If a tiger was loose in a neighborhood, every man would be on his guard, and would be careful how he travelled at night. In the eyes of the women of the South a tiger is loose all the time in the shape of negro fiends, that we read about almost every day in the papers. Those horrible things that happen elsewhere are likely to occur in any neighborhood. We are afraid that men generally do not sufficiently appreciate this condition of affairs, and often leave their women folks unprotected.

Men who meet after long years of separation from their boyhood friends, seem (some) to have forgotten all the youthful escapades of those callous years. With acquisition of honors, wealth or position, they have either entirely forgotten other days, or are ashamed that they ever were boys. We have met such dignified asses in our time and felt that we would not exchange the hallowed memories of youth for all of the other's wealth and honors.

The young man's burden is coming to the front. Heretofore they seemed to have had all the fun of life, while they laid the burden of responsibility, of incompetency, of imbecility on other shoulders. Now, young sirs, the older men will willingly step out from under the yoke, and let you run things. Here is the new county question, the court house and road business

to settle. Suppose you take it in hand.

Dr. McArthur explains himself and denies the whole charge, but we have good authority (Charity and Children) that he has always been bitter in his demonstration of the South. Why will our educational institutions persist in bringing such people to insult us with their plausible platitudes and rhetorical sugar coated nothings.

The indications are that we are going to have a new Red Springs when the burned district is built up. After all, the fire may turn to be a blessing in disguise. What would Lumberton be today without all those blessed fires that have occurred in her past history.

People come and go, but we take no note of their movements. If you want to keep up with the trend and daily life of our town, subscribe to the Citizen, who will club with The Robesonian for that purpose.

The late cold snap passed off without doing any serious injury to the fruit or vegetables of our community. The only serious result seemed to have been to our woodpiles. They don't look as satisfactory as they did a week ago.

Livermore may come and go. Moore may do the same, and so may the great Jordan, but judging by the amount of fertilizers that daily leave this place a 25 per cent reduction of acreage is not yet in sight.

### TO ATTEND HEARING.

Number of Kingsdale People go to Raleigh, Accompanied by Attorneys.

Capt. T. C. McNeely and Malcolm C. Woods, Esq., of Marion, S. C., passed through Lumberton Sunday afternoon en route for Raleigh, where they will attend a hearing in the matter of the Union Trust Company against the Southern Saw Mills and Lumber Company and others, before H. F. Sewell, Esq., Special Master. This hearing is for the purpose of taking evidence to determine the liability of the bond of W. J. Edwards, former receiver of the Southern Saw Mills and Lumber Company. Messrs. S. A. Edmund, G. M. Whitfield and R. E. Lee also left for Raleigh to be present at the hearing. It is understood that Mr. Edwards is very ill with erysipelas at his home in Sanford and cannot be present.

### Longworths on Return Trip.

Tampa, Fla., March 2.—Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Longworth arrived on the steamer Mascotte from Havana at 2:30 this afternoon. The steamer encountered rough weather Thursday and Mrs. Longworth suffered from sea sickness. Mr. Longworth said—that every moment of their stay in Cuba had been made pleasurable by entertainments offered them by the Cuban officials and others. A large crowd met them at the pier. They had a drive over the city as the guest of Collector of Customs McFarlane and dined at a Spanish cafe in Ybor City, leaving at 8:40 on the regular Atlantic Coast Line train in the private Pullman car Grassmere for Washington.

Among other passengers on the Mascotte were President Barr, Vice President Cost and General Passenger Agent Ryan, of the Seaboard Air Line.

It takes a great deal of courage to tell a girl how beautiful her sister is, and a sensible man never has it.

### CHECK FROM MR SPENCER.

Southern's President Pays Funeral Expenses of Old Negro Employee.

The oft-repeated statement that corporations have no soul has again been given the black eye.

Several weeks ago old man Robert Hays who had been an employee of the Southern and the Richmond & Danville since before the war, died. He had been faithful to every trust and was well liked.

One of the members of the family wrote Mr. Samuel Spencer, the president of the Southern asking him if the road would bear the funeral expense, stating that their father had done honorable service and had died leaving but little.

Yesterday, a check from the office of the president of the Southern for \$165 came through Mr. T. L. Black, the agent of the Southern, asking him to turn the amount over to "Uncle" Bob Hayes' family.

The letter enclosing the check was from Mr. Samuel Spencer and its contents indicate the high esteem in which the employes of the road are held by the man who is at the head of the greatest railroad system in the South. Charlotte News.

### Barkers Notes.

A large crowd gathered in the chapel at Barkers High School in Tuesday afternoon, February 27th to attend the funeral of Esther, the 14-year old daughter of Mrs. Carloote Powers, Rev. Z. Paris conducted the service.

Mrs. W. L. Barnett, who has been visiting her niece, Miss Lambert, left Thursday for her home in Virginia.

Mrs. Loving and Mrs. Osborne entertained the boarders in the dormitory at a delightful little party Wednesday evening. In a "peppy wise" contest Miss. Miss Daniel now the prize, after which choice refreshments were served.

Mr. Climpson Thompson, of Ashpole, was in the city this week.

### ASHPOLE NEWS LETTER.

Number of Important News Items From Hustling Town.

Ashpole, March 5.—Mr. W. C. Thompson, who owns some of the most desirable lots in town, sold one of them to J. P. Brown last Thursday. It is immediately next to some already owned by Dr. Brown. They expect to build in the near future a large double store.

W. T. Mercer & Company is the name of the newly chartered firm which owns the furniture store here. The firm consists of W. T. Mercer and E. T. Sloan, of Wilmington, and Messrs. Williams and Rouse, of this place. They expect to do a larger business than ever.

We are sorry to report the two most venerable men of our town not so well as usual. Both Capt. W. P. Moore and N. A. Thompson are a little under the weather.

Prof. Poole, of Lumberton, passed through town last Thursday on the way to Rowland looking after public schools.

Mr. S. J. Smith has bought a store lot on Main Street from Mr. A. C. Thompson and intends building on it at once.

Z. V. Straughan, now agent for the Equitable Life Insurance, spent part of last week at Marietta.

Mr. Frank Allen, of Lumberton, spent Thursday night in town. He was on the war path for the Greensboro Life, as usual.

Surveyor Neves is doing some work for private parties this week.

P. K. Floyd's dwelling on Main Street, occupied by Mr. Alan Bullock, is much improved by paint.

We are sorry to lose Mr. Roy Williams, who left this week to establish another furniture store.

The painters are at work on the new dwelling of F. S. Floyd, on Floyd Street.

Miss Alice Grantham, of McDonalds, visited Mrs. S. J. Smith last Thursday.

Dr. Brown spent Thursday at Marietta.

## TRYING TO PROVE THAT

### DR. MATTHEWS IS INSANE

Witnesses in the Matthews Case Testify as to the Mental Condition of the Prisoner.

Greensboro, N. C., March 5.—In an effort to prove that insanity is hereditary in the Matthews family, the aged father of Dr. J. B. Matthews, who is being tried on the charge of poisoning his wife, was placed on the witness stand Saturday. He declared that his mother was mentally deranged, and that his sister was weak-minded, while the prisoner's great uncle and great aunt had both lost their reason.

The proceedings of the fourth day of the trial, for the most part, consisted of the testimony of members of the Matthews family and medical experts as to the mental derangement of the prisoner. One of the latter, Dr. J. A. Gorman, of Asheville, N. C., averred that while sharing a room with the accused man, a number of years ago, Matthews had made a desperate effort to end his life. Numerous witnesses testified to acts of the prisoner while practicing medicine in this city, which in their opinion proved him mentally unbalanced. The defense has many more witnesses yet to be heard, while the state will produce new evidence in rebuttal.

Mr. Shelton Williams, of Buies, was among recent visitors in town.

## WANTS NO MORE 2ND CLASS FARES

Corporation Commission Urges That Only One Rate Be Made.

## ANNUAL REPORT

Nearly Four Thousand Miles of Railroad in the State—Employees Wages Aggregate Nearly Seven Millions of Dollars—Casualties reach 1,000.

The annual report of the North Carolina corporation commission was completed and sent to the executive office of Governor Glenn Saturday. It is for 1905 and is the seventh the commission has made. It treats in detail of their supervision of railroads and quasi public corporations, banks and their work as a state tax commission.

In their report on railroads the commission declares that North Carolina is one of the exceptions in the requirement of railroads to furnish first and second class rates, and that this, coupled with the requirement that the roads shall provide separate accommodations for white and colored passengers, necessitates too many cars, making an unwieldy and much more expensive train. They urge that if the roads were required to furnish one fare they could give better service at less cost, and that the passenger fare should be reduced.

The report shows that during the past year 5,589,500 passengers were carried by the various roads in the state. Of these the Atlantic Coast Line carried 1,815,724, the Seaboard Air Line 651,089, the Southern 2,988,700, miscellaneous roads 684,977. The passenger earnings were: Atlantic Coast Line, \$1,482,794; Seaboard Air Line, \$879,667; Southern, \$3,072,442.

The report shows that there are in the state 3,859.09 miles of road, an increase of fifty-nine miles over last year. The total valuation is \$69,578,334. Atlantic Coast Line, 947.83 miles, \$24,454,014; Seaboard Air Line, 612.12 miles, \$12,500,000; Southern, 1,279.56 miles, \$26,310,589; miscellaneous roads, 1,005.58 miles, \$6,308,731.

The railroads have 16,877 employees, their wages aggregating \$758,167. The average daily wages paid are: Atlantic Coast Line, \$4.87; conductors, \$2.90; mechanics, \$2.80; Seaboard Air Line, \$4.92; conductors, \$3.93; mechanics, \$3.18; Southern, \$4.92; conductors, \$4.01; mechanics, \$3.18.

During the year there were 114 persons killed and 787 injured in accidents. Atlantic Coast Line, 20 killed, 95 injured; Seaboard Air Line, 18 killed, 165 injured; Southern, 61 killed, 476 injured; miscellaneous roads, 15 killed, 51 injured. These figures include passengers, employes and trespassers. There were really 35 employes killed and 492 injured; 5 passengers killed and 148 injured, and 74 other persons killed and 152 injured.—Raleigh Evening Times.

### Mr. Johnson Speaks.

The Rev. Livingston Johnson, secretary of the State Mission Branch, addressed the congregation at the First Baptist church Sunday night. There was a large crowd present the church being filled to its utmost capacity. Mr. Johnson made a splendid address and the large audience was very favorably impressed by the speech.